



**Eco-Schools**



## Informing and Involving



Informing and involving the wider community is one of the seven steps of the Eco-Schools Framework



An Eco-Committee could involve the whole school in the Healthy Living topic by selling fruit snacks at break time

Every Eco-School in the world has an Eco-Schools notice board to tell visitors and members of the school community about their sustainability work. Keeping the notice board up to date and looking attractive is a job for pupils on the Eco-Committees from Ghana, to Brazil to Malaysia.

It is a requirement for Green Flag Schools in England to have a notice board in a prominent place with the following items on it;

- Photos of the Eco-Committee
- Copies of the minutes from meetings
- A copy of the most recent Environmental Review
- A copy of the most recent Action Plan
- The Eco-Code
- Examples of recent Eco-Schools work
- Graphs and charts from monitoring and evaluation work
- Before and after photos

“It isn’t just the notice board; Eco-Schools involve the whole school in their environmental work and inform the wider community about their projects”

## Every Eco-Committee develops different ways of informing and involving, here are some which you might like to try:

- A secondary school Eco-Team prepares and delivers a “Reduce, re-use, recycle” lesson at a local primary school
- Eco-committees run a lot of whole school competitions e.g. which pupil draws the most beautiful “Eco-Code”, which class keeps its house plant alive the longest etc.
- Herbs grown in the school garden are served in school dinners
- Older pupils teach younger pupils how to scot on a scooter
- Parents are surveyed for tips on healthy living at the school sports day
- Pupils take photos of their Eco-Schools work and they are uploaded and shown on the school screens/televisions in the foyer
- The Eco-Committee colour code ever switch in the school with a traffic light system where a little red sticker means don’t touch, amber means ask first and green means switch off, they then encourage their class to switch off green switches where ever possible
- The Eco-Committee invites a local business to a litter pick at the park
- The Eco-Committee invites a nearby allotment society to come and give them some gardening tips
- The Eco-Committee invites the local paper to come to its “Green Flag” celebration when they raise their green flag
- The Eco-Committee invites visitors from abroad to the school for the Global Citizenship Topic. Friends and relatives who have come from overseas are invited into school to tell stories, show pictures and sometimes even teach pupils how to cook regional specialties
- The Eco-Committee keeps an eye on the compost bins in the dinning hall to make sure pupils putting their waste in the right bins
- The Eco-Committee look up the “Air quality index score” on a local website each day and tell parents what it is on the school radio in the morning when they are dropping pupils off at school
- The Eco-Committee make beautiful posters about water saving and put them up on the back of toilet doors at school and also in the café by the school

- The Eco-Committee make poppies made from old plastic bottles and sell them at a nearby Church in time for remembrance Sunday
- The Eco-Committee makes short films on their phones on the Eco-Schools curriculum links. These films are shown at the beginning of relevant lessons
- The whole school camps out for one night in the school field as part in for the School Grounds Topic
- The Eco-Committee presents an assembly to the whole school telling them the results of their Environmental Review
- The Eco-Committee survey the pupils in their class on how they travel to school each week and then encourage everyone walk, each week the class with the most walkers gets given the “walking teddy” on Friday assemblies to look after for the next week



**Some Eco-Committees enter prize vegetables into their village fête or open the school garden for a local open garden event**

- The Eco-Committee write a letter to their MP about their concerns about air pollution at the school for the Healthy Living topic

- The Eco-Committee write a regular article for the school news letter

- The local mayor is invited to come and “switch on” the

schools new solar panel

- The pupil gardening club help out at a local retirement home’s garden once a week and every term the residents come to the school where the pupils serve them tea and cakes they have made
- The school has a “virtual” Eco-Board on the school website as well as a real Eco-Board both of which the Eco-Committee keep up to date
- The school has a concert on the “Biodiversity” theme, money raised is spent on trees saplings to be planted by pupils in the school grounds
- Three members of Eco-Committee stay after school to give a short power point presentation to the Governors once a term on one of the Eco-School topics
- The Eco-Committee go to visit an Eco-Committee at another school